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No Need to Page Kansas

THE fact that Governor Allen and the Kansas Court of Industrial Relations continue to draw fire from editorial, special, and magazine writers, is not without promise in these hours of darkness. Scarcely a day passes that does not bring forth in daily press and monthly periodical some bit of comment to the effect that all eyes are turned on Kansas. These comments range in tone all the way from mere dispassionate interpretation to high eulogy. Except for what is to be found in the labor press, admittedly opposed to the plan on general principles, there is to be found in all these varying comments not one single note of unfavorable criticism.

Nor is the reason for this general approval of the proposed Kansas method of settling labor disputes difficult to find. It lies undoubtedly in the fact that our political government, state and national, has found itself utterly unable to cope with the situation. Our method of dealing with these disputes in the past, and the state has ever been reluctant to take part in them, has been to resort either to arbitration or to the machine gun. And except for army officers who aspire to promotions, or political leaders who seek to ingratiate themselves with the more powerful interests, the machine gun method of settling labor disputes is nowhere in favor. Machine guns settle nothing; they merely show that one party to the controversy is stronger than the other; and that the weaker party must bide its time or try to exert its power in another direction. The injustice, the real seed of the conflict, remains.

And, as Governor Allen maintains, the arbitration method has inherent weaknesses. This plan results at the worst, when the decision goes strongly against one or the other of the two contending parties, in complete rejection of the decision of the board. And at best it ends in a compromise, "splitting the difference," from which both parties emerge as victors; what is gained by the parties at dispute being extracted from an entirely innocent and helpless public?

It is precisely the fact that in the Kansas Court of Industrial Relations the public is represented, and that it is no longer to be made the goat which has attracted nation-wide attention to this new departure in settling industrial disputes. Kansas may yet give us the thing we have looked for so long.

They Are Less Aggressive

ALTHOUGH he still maintains that they need to be checked—it does not do to drop so easily a policy of several years' standing—Attorney-General Palmer in his latest utterance on the subject seems inclined to the opinion that "revolutionists will never make such headway that they may hope to destroy a government so firmly rooted in the hearts of the people as the American Government."

Senator France, Republican, of Maryland, has introduced a joint resolution expressing it as the opinion of Congress that prosecutions under the espionage act should no longer be conducted, and recommending that the President and Attorney-General give careful consideration to proposals to grant amnesty to persons convicted under it.

Now while all persons may not be willing to go to the full limit with Senator France on this question, Mr. Palmer's attitude ought to convince many that it is time we tempered justice, if not with mercy, at least with considerations which till now have played little part in our judgments. It was quite normal that in the days which confronted us a year or two ago we

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should apply the law with utmost rigor, sinning on the side of over-reaching rather than on the side of neglect of public safety.

But easily the best evidence that we are less feverish in our pursuit of the radical may be gained from the softened tone on this question in the speeches of our presidential campaigners. These worthy gentlemen are the very weather vanes of public opinion. And when from a closer contact with the plain and common people everywhere than most of them enjoyed before the campaign, these framers of political issues find that it is a less and less paying investment to capitalize this so-called Red terror, it is an almost certain sign that the average citizen is no longer as hysterical as his political leaders want him to be.

H. C. L. Psychology

DESPITE the heroic efforts of federal, state and local organizations to bring down the high cost of living, it remains about where it was before—higher than Gilderoy's kite. Whatever we may be able to accomplish in other directions, in this one line we are apparently helpless. If there has been a decline it has been so little as to give us but small hope for the future. It may be that when the so-called paramount issues of the political campaign have been settled we may apply ourselves more successfully to this task.

The while we are waiting, however, we need not be altogether without consolation. For even the high cost of living has its bright side although to be sure it is not a very bright one, and has to be looked at from the right angle to be seen at all. In our zeal to corroborate the assertion that the cost of living is high—as though it needed any corroboration—we are likely to take the \$18 pair of shoes in the show window as proof. We once bought this pair for \$4.48. This should prove that the cost of living is high. And no doubt it does.

But the \$18 pair of shoes is only a part of the story. As a matter of fact nearly as many people are able to wear the more expensive shoes as were able years ago to wear the kind that cost \$4.48. It is doubtful when the facts are all adduced, if we could prove that the vast majority of people are worse off today than they were ten years ago. To the casual observer it must be apparent that sales have not fallen off to any great extent. You still have to wait till June or July for delivery on the automobile you order today.

We are likely to forget in the excitement of our hunt for the profiteer that the general and in many cases very substantial increase in income has put many of us within the reach of things which in the days of the low cost of living we were quite content to put aside as beyond our means. The pinch really isn't in the shoes; it's in the fact that we have suddenly found things within our reach which were not there before.

We must not grow cool in our zeal to abolish profiteering. And yet we must remember that a good share of our discomfiture is psychological. For all those who are ready to spend some effort in buying cautiously, to cut down their wants to a fairly decent margin, to buy for use rather than for show, the times are not so bad. The dollar that goes out may be worth less than it was five years ago; still it is not to be denied that more dollars come in.

A lazy man is like an Egyptian mummy, just hanging around without being the least of use to any one.

If young men were wise and old men were strong, courthouses and poorhouses would be useless.

Good talkers have little trouble in getting jobs but only the good doers keep them.

"Autopsy" is a medical term for locking the stable after the horse is stolen.

"Pay as you go" takes you ten times as far as "Owe as you go."

The man who never travels is most prejudiced against foreigners.

Full speed ahead is useless unless you know where you are going.

The man who is above his business is out of touch with success.

Do everything by system, but never let system do you.

Every man pays for what he gets in some kind of coin.

He who laughs loudest isn't paying the bills.

Cut your coat according to your credit.

Envy kills the envious.

Victimizing the Innocent Nations

IF THE people realized to what extent their foreign affairs are not in the hands of their government at all, but in the hands of financial groups, they would gain a bright light on many world events. It appears that the authority of governments is being limited to their own people's internal regulation, while the occasion and nature of its exercise in international affairs is determined by outsiders who are neither of the people nor of the governments.

Since the armistice, international affairs have been almost exclusively in the hands of financiers. Although certain enlightened national leaders aimed at the reconstruction of the world on a basis of peace, that purpose has been set aside by "interests" who aim at the reconstruction of the world on the basis of business and profits.

This is not merely a passing bit of interesting information; it entails vital consequences to the people. Our own country has lost its moral and material leadership from this cause. The United States which was a little while ago hailed as the friend and helper of all mankind, is now regarded with suspicion and dislike by much of the world.

Why? Have the people of this nation done any thing to warrant it? No. Has the Government of the United States? No. It has been done by others who belong neither to the government nor the people.

Who manipulated exchange so as to force down the buying power of other nations' money? The American people did not, nor did the American Government. Who curtly told Europe that it would have to pay treble for its goods, mountains of interest for its loans, and that no further help from the United States was to be expected? The people did not, nor did the government.

Yet as a result of these things the former trustful attitude of the world toward us has been changed. And these things were done by a small group of money-kings. The brunt of it, the harmful consequences of it are borne by the American people. A mass of feeling has been engendered against us, which we as a people have done nothing to merit, and of which we are the innocent victims.

The international feeling on which the peace or war of the world depends is now entirely at the mercy of certain financiers whose only policy is Per Cent, and their negotiations with each other have made every nation nervous, irritable and suspicious of each other.

The great American mistake—it was the mistake of a small group—was to suppose that Europe would be at our mercy for generations and that in the meantime our financiers would be able to skim the cream of the world. But Europe is showing us. Already payment of the Anglo-French loan of \$500,000,000 is provided for next October. That is part of Europe's answer to the attitude of our bankers. Already Britain can boast that her former trade is coming back in leaps and bounds. European investigators of American conditions report back home that whatever chance we might have had to excel the world in manufacture and shipping, has now been lost because of the tactics of men who confuse money with wealth, and credits with constructive power. Add to this the fact that the League of Nations is holding its meetings with the United States absent, and the magnitude of our loss of prestige may be measured.

It is an excellent thing for Europe that she is determined to get along without our help; she has paid over and over again for whatever help our financial kings have been able to give her. But is it a good thing for the United States that we have been put in such a position of rebuke and rejection because of the Shylock policies of a few men who are not Americans nor anything else, who are simply members of an international financial group that operates alike whether its ensign be the dollar of America, the pound of Britain, the franc of France, the lira of Italy or the ruble of Russia.

What is desirable above all things is that the people of the nations be made to understand that these things are not done by the people of any nation. The plain people are innocent even of the workings of the machinery. Finance, especially the international kind, is a high and exclusive game which the people do not know. It is not played by the people, but on them. And presently, when the high-playing financiers have sufficiently exasperated the nations by this game, red war starts over again and the money-grabbers have a new harvest.

In every nation that can read there ought to be a strong voice telling the people that it is not the people of another country who are doing this wrong, but small groups of men who operate together in every country, whose interests are always against the interests of humanity, and who have no country to love and for which to sacrifice. Above all, the faith of the common people in each other, which is being so greatly disturbed today, must be preserved.